

3/15/13

HB 6519

I am **Rev. Marybeth Marshall** from South Congregational Church in Middletown. I am concerned about the that long term health effects of GMOs on human beings have not been determined because GMO seed companies prevent the use of such seeds for independent research. In our study of GMO's at South Church, members said that when they buy food for their families, they have always assumed that the government would not allow untested, potentially harmful foods to be sold in our supermarkets. But the Food and Drug Administration conducts no special tests for GMO foods. In 1992 FDA commissioners overruled warnings from their own staff scientists and voted to require no new regulations for GMO foods. "If it looked like a tomato, it would be regulated like a tomato." Independent scientists have not been allowed access to GMO seeds for research. In France, however, a group of scientists surreptitiously obtained Roundup-tolerant corn. Their peer-reviewed long-term study of the effect of feeding this corn to rats was published just one month ago, on September 19. The results are extremely troubling, and the pictures of massive mammary tumors are shocking. In the absence of testing and regulation by the federal government, we need labels that tell us which products in our stores contain genetically modified organisms.